

***Halysia sedecimguttata* (L.) (Col.: Coccinellidae) at light in the London suburbs**

I was much surprised (and pleased) to find a specimen of this, the Orange Ladybird, sitting on the stand of my mercury-vapour lamp on the night of 25 June 1996 – the sole beetle to put in an appearance at the lamp that night. The species has always been a rarity to me and in fact I had met with it on two occasions only, once in Scotland and once in England: a single specimen in woodland at Grantown-on-Spey, probably off aspen, 30.vi.38; and a few at Moccas Park, Herefordshire, off birch, early June 1954. Although in reality so distinct, chiefly by the broad pellucid explanate borders of pronotum and elytra, I have known it to be occasionally confused with the local but far more common *Calvia 14-guttata* (L.), which is smaller and more convex with margins normal. Such mistakes may possibly arise from depending on a count of the pale elytral spots, which can however be rather deceptive, and are only excusable if one happens to be unacquainted with *H. 16-guttata*.

The definitive account of this ladybird, its biology and present status in Britain, is a highly interesting paper by M.E.N. Majerus and Z. Williams (1989, *Ent. Gaz.* **40**: 71-8). They point out that it is “one of our least known and least recorded species”, but that the Cambridge Ladybird Survey has shown it to be “very much more common than previous records had indicated”. This probably reflects a real increase consequent on the extension of its habitat to sycamore over most of its range, a remarkable fact which the authors are the first to record. They note that this is one of the few mildew-feeding ladybirds.

The Charlton occurrence would appear to be the first to be recorded in the immediate environs of London, and perhaps the fourth at mercury-vapour light. It suggests that *H. 16-guttata* is breeding somewhere in the vicinity, probably on sycamore. Fowler (1889, *Coleoptera of the British Islands*, **3**: 166) gives five records for what he called the London district, but three of the localities are in Surrey and two in East Kent. Majerus and Williams (pp. 74-5), listing finds during the period 1985-87, include only one for Kent and one (of 74 specimens) for Surrey.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

The second brood of *Euproctis similis* (Fuessly) (Lep.: Lymantriidae) in 1995

With reference to Dr Neville Birkett's records of this species on 14 and 16 October at Grange-on-Sands, Cumbria (*Ent. Rec.* **108**: 132), I can add a record of a fresh male in my trap at Saffron Walden, Essex on 9 October 1995. The weather note in my entomological diary reads “Scorching day – stripped to the waist. Dry, calm night, temperature 62-54°F.” The species came to my trap on 16 nights between 8 July and 1 August, but I did not see it again until October.— A.M. EMMET, Labrey Cottage, Victoria Gardens, Saffron Walden, Essex CB11 3AF.